## An important message from IGH PD

On Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Inver Grove Heights Police Officers, members of the fire department and MHealth paramedics responded to a medical emergency involving one of our officers, Ben Bidon.

Ben received care and was transported to Regions Hospital where he remained through the weekend. On the evening of Sunday, April 30<sup>th,</sup> he passed away surrounded by family and friends.

Ben Bidon was a native Minnesotan and Blaine HS Graduate. He began his career with the Inver Grove Heights Police Department on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Before that, he proudly served his country in the Army from 2005 to 2009. He was a well-decorated veteran and served a 14-month tour in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Tiger Force Unit. During his service to our country, he earned the following recognition:

- Army Commendation Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Expert Infantry Badge
- Parachutist Badge
- Air Assault Badge
- Driver and Mechanic Badge

As a police officer with Inver Grove Heights Ben was compassionate and diligent in his duties and served the public with pride. He worked tirelessly to make this community safe. As a member of this police department, he served as a crime scene technician, field training officer, firearms and use of force instructor, SWAT operator, and team leader and was currently assigned to our investigation unit. In 2020 he was honored with our lifesaving award and in 2022 a Chief's Award of Merit.

Outside of work Ben Bidon was a dedicated family man to his wife Ashley and his three daughters, Addison, Evelyn, and Eleanor. The Bidon Family enjoyed the outdoor life, taking many camping and hiking trips together. Ben was heavily involved in his church, loved playing hockey, and was an avid hunter.

Ben's impact in all facets of his life was immense. Everyone that was blessed to know Ben will remember him for his humor, giant personality, and an even bigger smile. His legacy has left a lasting impact that will never be forgotten.

Visitation and Funeral information for those that would like to attend will follow.

The Inver Grove Heights Public Safety Foundation has organized a GoFundMe page please see the link for further information.